

“Through time our stories will be forgotten or discredited, so it’s important to have it down on paper.” Nathan Lewis

“We’re trying to come back to our lives.” Eli Wright, IVAW

“Everything was dead and dying.” Kelly Dougherty, IVAW

“Sometimes you wonder how anything could grow at all.” Mike Blake, IVAW

GENERAL Meeting Agenda

Chapter 27 ~ June 8th, 2014 ~ 5:30pm

Attending: Chante Wolf, Mary McNellis, Bruce Barry, John Sherman, Dave Logsdon, Steve Gates, Tom Sullivan, Jim Steinhagen, Wayne Wittman, Bill Habedank, Barry Riesch, Greg Hagen, Neil Brodin, Ron Staff, Larry Johnson, Rob Ramer, Charlie Bloss, James Brown, Craig Wood.

Vietnam photo exhibit at the Regis Center for the Arts U of MN:

<https://events.umn.edu/Vietnam-A-Window-to-War-034868.htm>

A Moment of Reflective Silence.

Call to Order and Statement of Purpose - Read by: Neil Brodin.

Check-in: Short introduction, check-in - with comments of what is on our minds. Father’s Day.

Member Health Report: Steve McKeown is healing from heart surgery and taking it easy. Charlie Bloss and Jim Steinhagen came to the meeting and were doing fine. Far as we know, Andy is still receiving treatment for his cancer from the VA.

REPORTS:

Secretary-Last Months Minutes: Moved to accept - discussion ensued concerning whether or not people had even read them before voting. Second - one abstention.. Passed.

Treasurer: Moved to accept - second - discussion below concerning Harold Neilson’s will. **MOTION:** To approve the prepared report to the Attorney General’s office for our 501(c) (3) report dated 6-8-2014. Second. Passed. Treasurer’s Report attached below.

Membership: Barry welcomed our two guests. The new cards that Tim created were passed around. He is looking for phone calls for lapsed members. Interested to get that list, contact Barry. Bruce talked about a coffee meeting with Lee Ecklund and his ideas for membership, even to the point of doing a

PowerPoint at the National Convention. Chapter 27 is doing a workshop at the convention on chapter building.

Fundraising: {KUDOS to John Sherman for organizing the mailing which contributed to \$6,000 income in one month! Thank you!!} Grand Ole Days brought in over \$2,000 and the Linden Hills Art Show brought in over \$500. Thank you for those who showed up to help out! Thank you Greg for coordinating those events. Now we have to talk about creative ways to spend the money to support the work we do. Barry got new product for the up coming convention. June 20th 2-6pm 376 Western Ave., Ober Center, Mpls. 18th Annual Community Peace Day. Looking for help, contact Mary McNellis. Gay Pride coming up, looking people for the morning. Any one wants to help, June 28th, 29th looking for people to help in the morning. Contact Greg. Larry talked about our chapter not being registered for the Linden Hills Art show, they were very helpful in getting us space, he asked for \$25 donation and thank you letter for helping us get in. Dave agreed. Peacestock is another opportunity for fundraising. Tom Sullivan showed his folder with a photo and the tickets.

Education Project: Larry put the report in for the Bells grant on Friday and he handed out the left overs flyers that were given out at the Festival of Nations. These are something that can be continued to be handed out as the information is current about speaking in schools, why the bells and what we are doing with the Kellogg/Briand Act. Larry got a phone call last week, from a man from the Sudan booth, is was a former ESL student and very taken by our being veterans and working to educate people about ending war and working for peace. Larry will get together with him. Paul Chappell, West Point graduate and Iraq veteran, came back in 2009, and wrote The Art of Waging Peace, saying "West Point and the military, as well as my life before that, taught me the more important strategy of waging peace". He spoke at our national convention and will be here November 14-20. MAP is sponsoring a major public event, and there will be a workshop. Talk to Larry at [612-747-3904](tel:612-747-3904) if you have ideas of churches, colleges, or other audiences around the state he can talk to.

SAC: Greg reported there was a meeting a few weeks ago, good meeting. Strategize, plan ... Overview of making change. Busy verses effectiveness, reevaluating what works and doesn't. Being truthful in what we are doing and where we are going.

Finance Committee: Nothing to report.

AWC: Tim is not here.

WAMM: Mike is not here. Bruce talked about the WAMM Walk, 4-6 VFP participated in the 3 miles. Chanel 11 taped some of the event, Nick Theis spoke, not sure if it got on TV or not. Mini action coming up, indicate to the people who are riding on the Green Line when it opens. Would be important for Chapter 27 to stand along the line, June 14th, Flag Day. The location would be West Bank station. Not the Blue line which is Lake/Riverside. After the meeting, for those who want to there is a band downstairs we can walk around just to bring awareness. Grand Rapids is having a Peace Festival next weekend. There is a Drone walk from Chicago to Kalamazoo which is a Drone manufacturer.

Direct Action: See Above.

Art Projects: Chante brought up Mara Pelecis's 8030 call for artists. She is putting together an exhibit on the web signifying the 22 military suicides a day. Idea is to photograph 22 items and send the picture to her for display on her webpage. She wants to get 365 entries which will equal 8030, the number of suicides for the year. The Stele show is currently at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2315 Chicago Ave., Mpls. They will be there until July 4th. Chante talked a little about Red Wing Vets Retreat and the Vietnam photo exhibit, {link at top of notes}. Reading this Wed. "Making Meaning of Vietnam Project" Rob is looking for those interested to participate in a strategy meeting for future events. Reaching out to other nationality veterans and the younger ones coming home now. Lost Lake ~ Folk Opera .. www.shipwrecktbooks.com

Movie Night: "The Ghosts of Jeju" showing this Wed., 7pm at the VFP office.

SOA: Sold two tickets, four seats for veterans, forty tickets for students and there are 13 tickets left. Wayne is expecting more tickets to get sold when classes begin again next term. November 21st-24th. Leave at Plymouth Congregational Church 8am, then St. Catherine's at Randolph and Cleveland.

OTHER BUSINESS:

National Convention: Mary reported that they would like to rent a van, 7 people 625\$ to \$800 total food, motel, registration discount registration. **MOTION:** approve \$300 scholarship to any Chapter 27 member who needs assistance to attend National Convention in Asheville. Second. Passed. One abstention.

PeaceStock: Bill Habedank gave his updated report. He thanks for the \$1500 donation to help with the planning. Looking for people to sign up for helping: Set up/registration/sergeant in arms/greeters/supper set up and clean up. Wayne has tickets: \$30 indiv/\$35 at door, \$50 couple and \$10 student includes supper.

MAP: Mary reported the Grand Rapids Chapter of VFP is holding their Peace Convention. Next meeting is this Tues., June 10th, 11:30 am Plymouth Congressional Church on Nicollet and Franklin. Mary will read VFP statement of purpose.

Kellogg/Briand: Steve was not at the meeting. Planning for Aug. 27th event, will report on it in July meeting.

Memorial Day: {THANK-YOU, BARRY, for all the time, effort, money and set up of Memorial Day each year}. Your efforts turned out a 150 people, and the number grows each year!} Wrap up, Barry reported good event, about 150 people showed up. We had Jim Northrup who read out of his books, people lined up and read the names of MN KIA and others came to the microphone to remember other veterans and family members. Was a very nice event.

Harold Neilson Report: VFP Chapter 27 is beneficiary to his will. Legal action ensued after the motion was made two months ago at our meeting. We received our first part of the money, but we are still needing to ensure we adhere to the statement / parameter of his will. Was suggested that the treasurer can place into a separate account as we do not want to spend it until we fulfill the legalities of his will. Dave asked for those interested to form a committee. Sign up sheet was sent around. Interested contact Dave Logsdon.

Ron Staff Report on Viet Nam Trip: Ron showed images and shared his trip adventures to Viet Nam.

Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Chante Wolf. chantewolf7@gmail.com (Any corrections, please bring to next meeting and they will be addressed in the minutes).

	OPENING BALANCE	\$7,618.27
EXPENSE	VFP Chapter 115 - 50 Peacestock tickets	\$1,500.00
	FedEx - raffle ticket mailing - folding and copying	\$87.40
	Postmaster - raffle ticket mailing, postage	\$352.80
	Shell oil - gas purchase - J Sherman	\$20.00
	NCLP - rent, June. (\$25 rent increase)	\$625.00
	Century Link - phone and internet	\$109.36
	Wayne Wittman - printing/postage, member letter, May.	\$220.00
	VFP National - full page convention add	\$200.00
	Total	\$3,114.56
INCOME	Bell Account - transferred to checking as admin cost	\$451.27
	Raffle tickets - 2014	\$1,799.00
	Raffle tickets - 2014, Grand old Days	\$2,175.00
	Donations	\$1,128.00
	Product sale	\$10.00
	SOA - Reservations- 2014	\$520.00
	Peacestock tickets - 2014	\$210.00
	Total	\$6,293.27
	CLOSING BALANCE	\$10,796.98
	BELL GRANT ACCOUNT (Grant for bell casting project)	\$8,700.00
EXPENSE	Gita Patina - Books	\$58.64
	Smith Sharpe - Equipment & supplies	\$1,900.00
	Gita Patina - 1/3 of workshop payments	\$1,200.00
	Gita Patina - Casting Material	\$360.00
	Smith Sharpe - Casting Material	\$840.00
	Gita Patina - 1/3 of workshop payments	\$1,200.00
	Gita Patina - event related costs	\$234.00
	Chef Jeff - catering, food for event	\$600.00
	Plymouth Church - printing programs	\$28.00
	Gita Patina - final workshop payment	\$1,400.00
	Sharon Haller - supplies for event	\$118.09
	Ivy Arts Copy and Print - flyers for Festival of Nations	\$210.00
	Jack Pearson - thank you donations	\$50.00
	Rose McGee - thank you donations	\$50.00
	VFP Chapter 27 - Administration costs - for this account	\$451.27
	CLOSING BALANCE	\$0.00

Saying NO

Chante Wolf, 2014

I remember saying “No,” to my teacher that day,
in biology, when we were suppose to kill a frog.

I liked frogs, dogs, cats, horses, birds, dolphins, sea turtles,
and camels.

I stopped fishing too, never caught but a few,
preferring to take their picture instead.

The military didn’t get it all out of me,
I would have killed to stay alive, just not for a medal, book deal or promotion.

I wouldn’t kill that dog or camel either for practice.
Bad karma, like the oil fires, oil spill and porn.

Porn movies were shown to the pilots prior to their mission,
so they would blow their wad on the Iraqi troops and civilians.

Lies, porn and alcohol are ingredients needed for war,
same as racism, classism and misogyny are needed for bullying.

I remember saying “No” at some point to them too.

The Sexual Politics of War

Part 1:

Leave the vehicle and look around closely
Make sure no one is ready to attack you
Turn the corner, look behind you and around the corner
Make sure no one is waiting to attack you
Approach the door and check if anyone is inside
Make sure no one is waiting to attack you
Close the door so no one will enter behind you
Ready to attack you

Enter into the building, look all around
Make sure no one is waiting to attack you
Keep calm when someone appears should they be
more than just walking by
Realize you are not breathing
Relax
Take a deep breath
War
Is it a place young men, targets in uniform,
fight in a far off land
Or is it my walk home at night, womanhood,
my uniform and target

Part 2:

Are we so different?
The warrior and the woman
Stay in your place
One fights their wars
One cleans their kitchens
Both should just shut up and listen
Don't ask any questions
Fight the good fight
Same war on different fronts
So far in front we are facing each other

Part 3:

Is this your choice or lack of choices?

... Jen Hogg